

"Rheingold" Starts Ring Cycle Finely

By Sylvester Rawling.

"DAS RHEINGOLD," beginning the matinee cycle of Richard Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" at the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday got one of its best presentations. There was a crowded house. The cycle bids fair to be a record-breaker, with the general public getting scant pickings of seats because of the eagerness of the subscribers for the season to hold on to their own for these extra performances. The first scene at the bottom of the Rhine never was better done. The three maidens guarding the fateful gold moved through the



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\$2,500	\$30.00	\$3.00 to \$3.50
\$3,000	\$35.00	\$3.50 to \$4.00
\$3,500	\$40.00	\$4.00 to \$4.50
\$4,000	\$45.00	\$4.50 to \$5.00
\$4,500	\$50.00	\$5.00 to \$5.50
\$5,000	\$55.00	\$5.50 to \$6.00

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flowing water, of which the illusion was fine, seemingly at will, with ease and grace and tantalizing sauciness for the chief of the Nibelungen, without disclosing the machinery with which it was accomplished. All the stage settings were imposing. The lighting, with one or two minor slips, was admirable. So to Jan Heythekker, the stage manager, first honors.

Wagnerites will have to search their memories for a long time to recall a performance in which, thanks to Mr. Hodensky, who conducted, the singers got such a chance to be heard. They may, perhaps, cite greater casts, but seldom, if ever, has the text been propounded more intelligibly and such a foundation laid for an intelligent understanding of the Trilogy that is to follow. And the singers that Mr. Gatti-Casazza presented to us were efficient and sometimes notable. No such impersonation of Loge as that of Johannes Bombach, not overlooking the admirable one by Mr. Burian, has been seen here since Mr. Van Dyck, and as to voice, Mr. Bombach is the superior of both. Some really beautiful singing must be put to his credit yesterday. Then there was Carl Braun, as Fafner, who made us forget all his recent dryness by singing with the liquid quality, the expressiveness and the sentiment that he showed when first he came to us, Hermann Weill, as Wotan, impressive in action, projected something of a similar suavity in voice. Otto Gortitz, as Alberich, and Albert Reiss, as Mime, we have known long, to the detriment, no doubt, of the latter, in the company's productions. Henri Scott, sang Donner effectively, and Basil Ruyndael as Fafner was a fitting companion giant to Carl Braun.

Margaret Matzenauer, ever an artist even when, once in a while, her voice plays tricks with her, who has been a tower of strength to Mr. Gatti during this season of singers indisposed, was an imposing and convincing Fricka. Marie Rappold, a lovely picture as Freia, sang with charm and distinction. Margaret Ober, in the rather ungrateful part of Erda, compelled respect, as she always does. Then there were the three fascinating Rhine maidens, Lenora Sparkles, Julia Heinrich and Lila Robeson, whose final wailing appeal rang in our ears after Wotan and the gods, behind the curtain, had passed across the rainbow bridge to Walhalla.

"La Boheme" got a rattling good performance at the Metropolitan Opera House last night before a crowded audience. Mr. Caruso, as Rodolfo, was in his best voice and spirit; Mme. Alda never was better as Mimì and Mr. Amato, as Marcello, substituting for Mr. Scott, still indisposed, was admirable. Besides, there were in the cast old friends, such as Mr. Didur, as Colline; Mr. Tegan, as Leonhardt; Mr. Audisio and Mr. Reschiglian, and as new acquaintances Ida Czatti and Pompilio Malatesta. Mr. Bagnoli conducted.

Carnegie Hall was crowded to the limit last night at the People's symphony concert. The soloist was Albert Spalding, the American violinist, who was heard in the Beethoven concerto, in which he played his part so commandingly that he was recalled innumerable times, and (Fie, Mr. Arenz! Don't spoil your followers) was permitted to add an extra number, Arenz's selections for his orchestra alone were Grieg's "Spring" for strings; Tchaikovsky's "Marche Slave" and, again, Dvorak's "From the New World" symphony, intrinsically beautiful, but much overplayed this season.

Other concerts of yesterday included that of the New York Chamber Music Society, of piano, wind and string instruments, of which Carolyn Beebe, pianist, is the leading spirit. At Aeolian Hall last night, each of Beethoven, Brahms and Saint-Saens made the programme. In the afternoon, at Aeolian Hall, Ethel Newcomb, an accomplished American pianist, played Schubert, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin and Rubinstein compositions, and added "old novelties" by Paula Skall when she was ten, and by Arthur Schnabel when he was fourteen. In the afternoon, also, at the Princess Theatre, Marian Clark gave a song recital.

Macdowell Club Still at It With A Notable Show

The Macdowell Club, No. 103 West Fifty-fifth Street, has another interesting group exhibition in its galleries, where it will remain until Feb. 13.

William Nicholson Taylor, has broadly done a fine picture of "Sand Dunes." The wind sculptured sand of the dunes with its beach vegetation, is well done, as to composition, feeling and color. The foreground is somewhat sketchy. "The Wilderness" and "Delaware Bay" are similar subjects.

Charles Austin Needham, under the title of "Gethsemane," has painted a head of Christ. The detail has been kept down almost to the vanishing point. This is likewise characteristic of his other offerings.

Andrew T. Schwartz has painted a pleasing canvas called "The Guardian." It is purely ideal, and the angel figure with her extended wing, is admirably composed. The feeling is good throughout. The motif is ecclesiastical.

"A June Day," by the same artist, is a strictly academy picture. Its landscape features are joyously set forth.

Duncan Smith has made a careful study of a Japanese parasol and called it "The Blue Parasol." The drapery of the girl holding it is not so well done as the parasol. The work in the background also seems a bit careless.

"Allice," by Mr. Smith, is very ambitious in composition scheme, but quite disappointing in its carrying out. The colors are harsh and the treatment modernesque.

"The Temple Silk" is in very high key. The needlewoman works blithely upon a temple hanging. The upholstery, the Chinese container, the Oriental rug and other room accessories are all very decorative.

Robert K. Ryland has painted a portrait of "A Russian American," into which he has contrived to incorporate much feeling, although it is done in primitive colors. The red effect in the girl's hat and her green book, are both factors in the painting. They enter into an effective contrast with the girl's black glove.

B. Lillian Link has done some good hand-wrought silver and a very charming "Moon Bowl with Bronze Standard."

The other participating artists are F. Tolles Chamberlain, Brenda Putnam, and Katharine Beecher Steison. Paul Cozanne seeks to be the present vogue. He is having another showing, this time at the Modern Gallery, No. 569 Fifth Avenue, until Feb. 8. Here, his exhibition consists of two oils, two water colors and one lithograph.

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is now publicly shown for the first time. It avoids the "shot-to-pieces" school altogether, and introduces a bouquet done by Cezanne in his latest manner.

The painting was accomplished from a mosaic of paper flowers, but the finished painting does not betray plebeianism in any way. The container has a pleasing shape, and certain delightful color tones. It is really superb, for a modernist. The floral units are happily composed, with a color harmony almost, if not quite, equal to the "Bouquet de Fleurs" by Cezanne, and represents three years of close application. Hence the paper flowers.

LISTEN, BROADWAY.

Two lone waitresses and as many messenger boys who got \$10.15 in tips from the President aren't spend them. If they do, Mr. Wilson will be an offender under the anti-tipping law.

FIRES TWO BULLETS TO MAKE HER DEATH SURE

Miss Singer's Suicide Is the Fourth Tragedy to Occur in "Hoodoo" Cottage.

The suicide of Miss Emily Singer, forty-three years old, by shooting in her home in Homer Lee Avenue, Jamaica, yesterday, revealed a series of tragic deaths in the cottage built by Charles Singer, her father, fifteen years ago.

Miss Singer, who had been in ill health and despondent, was so determined to die that after firing one bullet into her breast from a revolver, she discharged a second into her brain when she found she still had strength left to pull the gun trigger.

Two weeks after the completion of the Homer Lee Avenue cottage, which the mother of Miss Singer now occupies alone, Charles Singer, a prosperous builder, dropped dead. Two years later a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Jessie S. Singer, was burned to death when her clothing caught fire while she was cooking at a gas stove. Several years ago a son of the Singers died of tuberculosis. The suicide of the surviving daughter yesterday has convinced the mother that the cottage is a hoodoo and she will try to sell it.

Miss Singer on Wednesday night asked her mother to sleep with her, saying she feared to be alone. She arose early yesterday, went downstairs and fired two bullets, which ended her life.

ASKED VOTE; WON HEART.

Miss Dorothy Nicoll's Suffrage Plea Brings About Engagement.

William E. Hubert, author and artist, heard Miss Dorothy Nicoll of Babylon, L. I., speak in favor of suffrage last fall. He liked the speech and was converted. The engagement was announced last night at the home of her father, William G. Nicoll, former surrogate.

BOSTON BUSINESS MAN LAUDS VAR-NE-SIS

Says Simple Remedy Removed Aches and Pains of Rheumatism After Suffering For Years.

Mr. Thomas F. Burke, the well-known merchant tailor of 18 School st., Boston, is enthusiastic about Var-ne-sis and what it has accomplished in his case. He said:

"I am enthusiastic about the medicine I decided to try it."

"I do not care for publicity, but feel that there may be some one afflicted as I was, and if my letter will

be the means of some poor sufferer finding relief I gladly give it; for today I am not only free from pains and aches, but have not felt so well in ten years. I cheerfully recommend Var-ne-sis to every one suffering from rheumatism."

Var-ne-sis is not a Cure-All. It has been highly successful in chronic rheumatism of the joints, as attested by the large collection of crutches, wheel chairs, canes, etc., that have been discarded by rheumatic sufferers. No man or woman suffering from rheumatism can afford to ignore this mass of evidence. \$1000 is offered if these testimonials have been purchased or they are other than genuine.

Copies of the newspaper devoted to rheumatism will be mailed to all who address W. A. Varney, Lynn, Mass. Get Var-ne-sis at Riker-Hogeman and other reliable druggists, and know what good health means. Tell your druggist to get Var-ne-sis for you from his wholesaler or send to W. A. Varney, Lynn, Mass.—Adv.

T. F. Burke, Boston Merchant Tailor, Who Is Enthusiastic About Var-ne-sis.

"I have had rheumatism for ten years, and suffered from pain and stiffness in my joints. I seemed to ache in every bone, my hand was getting weak, and I felt that the disease was gradually extending to almost every joint. I tried many remedies and treatments recommended, but without permanent relief."

"On account of the disease extending, I made preparations to curtail some of my business, because it was getting so that I could not attend to my several stores."

"A friend of mine whom I was doing some work for was in a very bad condition from rheumatism of the joints; in fact, one time I saw him made the remark that I did not intend to believe he would be able to get out again. Some months after this he again visited me, and this time was in good condition—didn't seem to have any trouble, had gained in weight and could walk naturally. I asked him what he had been doing; he said taking Var-ne-sis; and he was

the means of some poor sufferer finding relief I gladly give it; for today I am not only free from pains and aches, but have not felt so well in ten years. I cheerfully recommend Var-ne-sis to every one suffering from rheumatism."

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Philadelphia, Pa., February 3, 1916.

To the users of anthracite coal:

The Anthracite Coal Strike Commission, appointed by the President, to inquire into labor conditions in the anthracite region, and "to endeavor to establish the relations between the employers and wage workers upon a just and permanent basis," made an award which, with minor modifications and considerable additional concessions to the wage workers at subsequent conferences, is still in force. The last agreement, signed on May 20, 1912, expires on March 31, 1916.

The miners are now demanding substantial concessions, entailing such additional burdens upon the operation of our mines that we deem it our duty to frankly and fully lay before the public the problem which confronts us—a problem which will ultimately affect every user of anthracite coal. The demand for 20% increase in wages alone will in the aggregate bring about an increase in the cost of anthracite coal to consumers exceeding Twenty-three Million Dollars a year.

The operation of the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania represents an investment of upwards of \$275,000,000 in plant and equipment, in addition to the value of the coal lands leased by the operators.

Mining, though carried on by the most scientific methods, yields an exceedingly small return upon the actual capital invested, and while it is to be freely admitted that certain mines, worked under peculiarly favorable conditions, yield liberal profits, it is equally true that many anthracite mines, the product of which is needed by the public, are at present either operated at no profit, or with so narrow a margin of profit that it is a matter of indifference to the operator whether or not they continue to be operated.

The average returns are entirely too small to meet the increased cost of additional compensation to miners, or substantial changes in conditions of employment, without a consequent increase in the price of coal to the consumer.

We believe that the users of anthracite coal are vitally interested in the readjustment on April 1, 1916, of the relations between the operators and the miners. We propose to acquaint anthracite coal users with the vital conditions of the industry, as well as with the social and working conditions of the army of 180,000 employees, engaged in the operation of the mines.

Because of the extraordinary industrial conditions—caused by the European war, which causes have in no degree benefited the anthracite industry—the price of labor has rapidly advanced. A determined effort will be made by the miners to secure increased wages which would be unexpected and unwarranted in ordinary times. Such demands, if granted, would place a heavy and permanent burden upon every user of anthracite coal.

We have conceived it to be our duty to inform the users of anthracite coal of the state of affairs, in order that an enlightened public sentiment may operate to fairly adjust the conditions which will arise, and which must be discussed and determined within the next few weeks.

If, after such presentation, the users of anthracite coal say it is our duty to make a large advance in the income of the miners and others employed in the industry, and are prepared to meet the advanced cost by paying a higher price for coal, now is the time to say so, and we can meet the issue on that basis, but if the anthracite coal-using public is opposed to such concessions its voice should be plainly heard.

The coal operators desire to deal justly with their employees, granting every fair request, but they also deem it their duty to protect the coal-consuming public and to conserve its interest, just as they purpose to protect, so far as they are able, their own interests.

We believe that our employees are entitled to receive reasonable wages to meet living conditions, comparable with wages paid in other similar lines of industry, where equal chances for steady employment are offered, provided our employees are willing to cooperate, with their energy and thrift, in securing reasonable efficiency; and that the operators are entitled to receive a reasonable return on their investment, because in this way only can the necessary capital be secured to develop the mines for the increasing public necessities; and we also believe that the consumer should be able to buy his coal at the lowest possible price after these conditions are met.

It is in this spirit that the coal operators approach this vital problem, and they ask fair consideration, by the coal-consuming public, of such facts as will be presented to them, in the belief that this intelligent consideration will insure an equitable adjustment of the approaching negotiations.

SCRANTON COAL COMPANY, By J. B. DICKSON.
DODSON COAL COMPANY, By ALAN C. DODSON.
DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN COAL COMPANY, By E. E. LOOMIS, Vice President.
THE DELAWARE & HUDSON COAL COMPANY, By W. H. WILLIAMS, Vice President.
GREEN RIDGE COAL COMPANY, By W. L. CONNELL, President.
KINGSTON COAL COMPANY, By F. E. ZERBEY, General Manager.
THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY, By S. D. WARRINER, President.
LEHIGH VALLEY COAL COMPANY, By F. M. CHASE, Vice President.
LEHIGH AND WILKES-BARRE COAL COMPANY, By C. F. HUBER, President.

MADEIRA, HILL & COMPANY, By F. G. MADEIRA, President.
G. B. MARKLE COMPANY, By JOHN MARKLE, President.
A. FARBER & COMPANY, By FRANK FARBER, President.
PENNSYLVANIA COAL COMPANY, By W. A. MAY, President.
THE PHILADELPHIA & READING COAL AND IRON COMPANY, By W. J. RICHARDS, President.
SUSQUEHANNA COAL COMPANY, By MORRIS WILLIAMS, President.
TEMPLE COAL COMPANY, By S. B. THORNE, President.
J. S. WENTZ & COMPANY, By D. B. WENTZ, President.
WEST END COAL COMPANY, By C. D. SIMPSON, President.
WHITNEY & REMMER, By J. L. REMMER, President.

Committee Representing Anthracite Operators.